

## The Farmers' Leader.

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THE FARMERS' LEADER is owned by a company composed of nearly 400 of the most progressive farmers of southeastern South Dakota. It is a fearless advocate of the rights of the farmer, mechanic, day laborer and artisan, and as such it will use its best influence toward the upbuilding of the Farmers' Alliance, the Knights of Labor and kindred organizations, and, incidentally, toward the support of the principles of the independent party.

The paper is conducted under the supervision of a board of directors composed entirely of farmers. The following is the present membership: Hon. H. Bradshaw, Nelson Larson, Edgar Wardwell, J. E. Holter, O. M. Iverson.

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Correspondence is desired from every county in the southeastern part of the state and especially from the towns and townships in Lincoln county. Correspondents should write their manuscripts as plainly as possible and write on one side of the paper, and should at all times confine themselves to the news. It is also important that a correspondent's name should be attached to come in order to secure admittance to the columns of the paper. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications of any kind, contributions on economy, finance, tariff, transportation, land, and other important questions of the day, are invited from all parts of the country. Contributors are requested, however, to make their communications as brief as possible. Communications of any kind, must be in or before Tuesday evening in order to secure publication the same week.

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### AN INFAMOUS CONSPIRACY.

In February, 1862, Congress passed the act authorizing the issue of \$60,000,000 treasury notes, bearing no interest and payable for all debts, public and private. This issue together with the issue of July, 17, 1861, unlike all subsequent issues, not contain the exception clause. But in less than four days after the passage of this last act, a banker's convention was held in Washington, consisting of four delegates from New York banks, three from Philadelphia, and three from Boston.

To the busy world there was nothing in the calling of a convention at Washington. But why a banker's convention? Why, congress had made the money of the government full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and Shylock and his gold had been ignored. The bankers must have a consultation. They must have control of congress and devise some means by which the demand for their gold would become imperative. There is no room to doubt but that the conspiracy perfected at that convention resulted in that infamous exception clause to the greenback, and was consummated by act of congress, February, 25, 1862, wherein it was stipulated that the greenback should be legal tender for all debts, public and private, except duties on imports and interest on the public debt, which from that time should be paid in coin. Shylock rejoiced! He had accomplished his purpose and created a demand for his gold.

For congress to stipulate that only a certain article should be used in the payment of certain government debts, was simply to create a demand for that article. Had the act read that only white pigeons should be used in the payment of import duties and interest, do you not see how a demand for white pigeons would have been created? and if 100 men had a corner on white pigeons, they would have had a corner on the government. This is precisely what congress did for Shylock—it gave him a corner on this government.

But I am asked what harm if congress did create a demand for Shylocks hoarded gold? The wage worker says it did not effect him as he was working by the day, month or year. The manufacturer says it did not effect him as he did not use imported material. The consumer said it made no difference to him for he did not pay duties on imports nor interest on the public debt.

Let us see. Who paid the premium which congress offered on Shylock's gold? Secondly, how much was Shylock benefited thereby? You remember that during the war our cotton and sugar crops were cut off in the south and we were obliged to import these articles from foreign countries. At one time the duties on sugar were 76 per cent and about the same time the premium on gold was 185 per cent. That is it took 285 cents in greenbacks to buy a hundred cents in gold. Had it not been for the exception clause on the greenbacks the importer would have saved his sugar at \$1.76,

but besides the import duty on goods, he must pay the premium on the gold. One hundred cents in gold cost 285 cents in greenbacks. At the same rate, (the import duty) cost him 216 cents in greenbacks, so that instead of paying 76 per cent duty he actually paid 216 per cent, or 140 per cent more than he would have paid had there been no exception clause on the greenback. This \$140 which went directly to Shylock's coffers, was added to the price of the sugar and paid by the wage worker, the manufacturer, and every other consumer of imported sugar. In the same way we were compelled to pay enormous prices for tea, coffee and several hundred other imported articles. In the year 1864 the American people paid in consequence of the exception clause, nearly \$400,000,000, or about \$87 to each family. Where is the man or woman whose cheek does not burn with indignation and shame as he contemplates this robbery? Think of the situation! The soldier facing death on the battlefield for \$16 per month, sends that money to his sorrow stricken family to use in supplying them with the necessities of life; and in the purchase of their food and clothing, they pay directly to the gold gamblers of Wall Street from 25 to 50 per cent of it.—Mrs. S. E. V. Emery, in Seven Financial Conspiracies.

### THE TWIN TRICKSTERS.

The Yankton Telegram, of last week, contains the following pertinent remarks concerning Senators Moody and Pettigrew, the twin political tricksters of South Dakota, who are both neglecting the people business at Washington in a shameful manner, to give their time to political scheming at the state capital:

Moody was in Sioux City Monday on his way to Sioux Falls, to consult no doubt, with Pettigrew on the senatorial question. These two chaps are paid \$5,000 a year to attend to their duties in congress when that body is in session, but instead of doing this duty came home with the avowed purpose of securing Moody's reelection by "inducing" men to betray their constituents and become traitors to the cause they have pledged themselves to. Pettigrew knows, and every republican knows, that Moody can never be reelected senator, except by bribery or corruption of some kind. Knowing this to be an undeniable fact these two honorable (?) senators come from their place of duty at Washington, to engage in the dirty work of "inducing" men to sacrifice their manhood and their honor, for what? To elect to the position of senator, a man whom they have solemnly pledged themselves to the men who have elected them, to oppose. While it is no doubt true that the old republican gang of office brokers, with an unscrupulous man like Pettigrew at their head, will dare to do almost anything to further their ends, yet we are not prepared to believe that there is a solitary independent to be found so devoid of integrity, and so consciousness and lost to many attributes, to say nothing of a sense of solemn duty he must feel himself under to his constituents, as to abandon his principles and his convictions, and vote for a man who is the deadly enemy of the farmers' and the independent party. If there are any such men among the independent party as this, they cannot show their hands too soon. The people want to know who they are.

### WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY.

Expressions Upon Various Topics From Men Who Know Whereof they Speak.

M. Jepson: I like your paper very well and, in some things I believe you are too radical on a good many questions; I don't know as I am as well posted in this as I could be, but it seems to me that to loan money on landed securities would make money too cheap. It don't look to me some way as if it would work. I believe you are just on the right track of salary business; all of those fellows are getting too much for what little work they do and something should be done to bring them down.

H. Brynjulson: There are a good many who are in favor of starting an alliance store here; I cannot favor the idea, for the simple reason that it is our principle to oppose monopoly, and by starting such a thing as a store, it would be in my opinion against our expressed principles in so far as it would be the same as building up a monopoly in itself. I am in favor of supporting the enterprises of our home towns. I think it would be better in the end.

J. E. Holter: I am very much misunderstood on this water works bond business. I am not opposed to Canton getting water works; not at all; but the general system by which this kind of improvements are now almost universally obtained. And my idea is to call the attention of these people to the unwisdom

of the way in this matter. That is all.

Ed. Wardwell: They'll have a hot time of it at Pierre the next two weeks, but I have been thinking a good deal and can't see how the republicans can possibly win unless they just buy their way through.

A. L. Syverud: I see "A Farmer" who writes in THE LEADER, of last week, advising the farmers to club together and start a store or do all their business with those who are favorable to them in a political way. I think that is a wrong idea; although I see the same advice in a great many reform papers the past few years, it is my opinion that we should patronize the home institutions and get them to cooperate with us. It is united action we want to bring to bear on congress; that must help us out. This we can never accomplish by keeping up a constant hostility to our home business men whose co-operation we need as much as we do the farmers'. The trouble is that the people out west have been divided too long now, and that is just what these eastern monopolists want.

### FARMERS TO MAKE LAWS.

Measures Which Reports Say the Alliance Will Support in North Carolina.

A recent dispatch from Raleigh, N. C., to The New York Times contains the following:

There are 115 members of the legislature who are also members of the Farmers' Alliance, and these men are all determined on the passage of a bill establishing a railroad commission, with power to fix passenger fares and freight rates. Bills of this character have been defeated in every legislature during the past eight years. The demand of the Alliance is for an ironclad commission to regulate and fix passenger fares and freight rates, and the strong possibility is that such an act will be passed.

The legislature will be called upon to find new subjects of taxation to raise \$150,000, which has been withdrawn from the state treasury by decisions of the United States circuit court declaring the tax on commercial drummers and on the sale of guano to be unconstitutional. The guano tax went to the support of the agricultural department and the agricultural and mechanical school. This school is in the nature of a manual training college, and is very popular among the people of the state, and there is a universal desire that the money be provided to continue the school.

In order to raise the money needed it is proposed to levy a tax of \$1 on every ton of guano sold in this state either by principal or agent, which would bring in \$150,000, and thus supply the deficit.

There is a general demand for more money for the free public schools. These schools are not now kept open more than two months in the year, and no teacher receives more than \$40 per month as salary. As the law now stands, the school fund is divided pro rata according to the number of children.

The penitentiary system is becoming a heavy burden to the taxpayers. There are now \$1,500 convicts in the penitentiary near the city—1,200 negroes and 300 whites. The expense, all told, to keep up this system is \$300,000 per year. The people of the state are opposed to the penitentiary because they believe it does not decrease crime and because it is a heavy expense. In its place they are in favor of the old Mosaic punishment of nine-and-thirty lashes well laid on the bare backs of all offenders who are not to be imprisoned for life.

One of the demands of the Farmers' Alliance in this state is largely increased criminal jurisdiction for the justices of the peace, so that one-half of the cases which now cumber the dockets of the superior courts would be triable before the justices, with the right of appeal to the superior court. The Alliance members ought to be able to get such a bill through at the next session, but they will meet with strong opposition from the lawyers. The enactment of such a law would reduce the criminal expenses of the superior courts at least one-half, the laws would be just as well administered, and there would be no more crime than there is now. There is a strong desire for the amendment of the civil jurisdiction of the justices, so as to give them the right to hear and determine all civil matters where the sum sued for does not exceed \$500. The limit is now \$200.

The Alliance people are also bitterly opposed to the law which permits farmers to execute a lien on the crop to be made. This law makes the farmer or renter, as the case may be, both lazy and extravagant—lazy because he goes to town and buys guano instead of drawing on the product of his own farm, and extravagant because, having credit by virtue of his lien, he buys many things that he does not need, and would not purchase if he were obliged to pay cash.

The interest he pays for this indulgence ranges from 25 to 100 per cent. As a matter of course this enormous charge, coupled with several successive years of bad crops, brought almost every farmer in debt to the landlords and merchants. It is believed by the Alliance people that the repeal of this law, to take effect Jan. 1, 1882, would prove of great benefit to the men who till the soil by forcing them to pay cash. The repeal of the lien law would also open the way for the investment of the capital of the merchants now used in the commission and lien business in other channels, such as cotton factories and similar manufacturing establishments.

There is also a strong feeling against the law of contributory negligence on the part of the employees of railroad and other corporations which prevents the recovery of damages for any injury received by the employe while in the employ of the corporation if by his act he contributed thereto. An effort will be made to repeal this law and make the injury itself prima facie evidence that the employe is entitled to recover, leaving only the question of the amount of damages to be found by the jury. Of course this innovation will be fought by the various corporations, but the opinion

prevails that the opposition will not avail to prevent the amendment of the law as stated.

### An Interesting Question.

It will be noticed that the Farmers' Alliance people generally consider the question of the handling of the government finances of more importance than any other national issue. Have we enough currency in circulation? While "business" is apparently good, that is to say, trading is plenty enough, there is a shortage in what we call "ready money." We find many people with property enough who cannot pay bills because of shortage in the "medium of exchange." They might secure cash by selling some of their property, but the cash price for this would be far below their estimate of its value. There is, therefore, a well settled belief in the minds of the people that the volume of cash is so small that the banks and money lenders have a great advantage over those who must pay their debts in cash or what has been decreed legal tender. How far are they right? To us, this is one of the most interesting questions of the day.—Rural New Yorker.

### The Decline of Rural New England.

Not only is the area of cultivated land decreasing, but the land owners are sensibly narrowing their tillage. The land is growing poorer, partly from natural causes and partly from less careful working and the marked decrease in the amount of live stock kept upon it. The fact is, farming does not pay, especially if help must be hired to do a large part of the work.

The farmer finds himself the victim of all the evils of a protective tariff without its supposed benefits. The promised home market he has found to his cost, if not his ruin, is a delusion and a snare. If the manufacturing centers in his vicinity have raised the price of some of his products they have advanced the cost of labor in a greater degree, and drawn to themselves the best brain and muscle from the farms.

He is being heavily taxed for the benefit of the whole list of these assistant industries that rob him of his working force, while the competition, intensified by labor saving machines suited to the large prairie farms of the west and stimulated by lavish gifts of land to settlers and subsidies to railroads, ruinously reduces the prices of his products in his natural home market. He buys western flour and western corn for his own consumption at a cheaper rate than he can produce them with hired labor, and by reason of the long winter is unable to compete with the west and south in cattle raising for the eastern market at his door. Confining his attention to the few crops that, from their bulk or perishable nature, are not subject to the destructive competition of the west, the ordinary farmer merely lives and pays current expenses, while his less shrewd and careful neighbor falls behind each year, and sooner or later will be sold out of house and home.—Professor Amos N. Carrier in Popular Science Monthly.

### The Patent System.

The patent system is a tax! That is a Christmas thought that our readers may well ponder over. Patents! patents! patents! Without number and, many of them, without reason. We make the bold statement that these are hardly a garment we wear, hardly a convenience we use, hardly a sample of food we eat that does not draw a portion of its cost from the patent system. Telephones, electric contrivances, refrigerators—things which are becoming almost absolutely necessary to the public are all backed up by patents until the proprietors are enabled to demand rates that are little short of extortion.

No just man will deny the right of an inventor to an adequate reward for his time and toil; but there is a difference between "adequate reward" and extortion. The money spent in lawyers' fees in fighting infringements of patents is simply astounding. The patent laws ought to be revised. A friend who has studied this matter as inventor, manufacturer and patent lawyer suggests these lines of revision: 1. No patent should run over five years. 2. No patent should be issued except for great merit. 3. The surplus of the patent department should be used to buy up unexpired patents which inventors wish to abandon.—Rural New Yorker.

### Hear Those Who Know.

Farmers frequently do some very foolish things, for which they can give no good or substantial reason. Now, who ever heard of a medical society inviting a farmer to deliver an address on therapeutics, or of a legal fraternity calling some tiller of the soil to talk on criminal jurisprudence? We will venture that the oldest inhabitant cannot recall so ludicrous an event. Yet at nearly every agricultural fair some lawyer or doctor, who is as ignorant of practical agriculture as the average Hottentot is of Greek, is booked for an address to farmers, is to talk to them upon a subject with which they are, or at least should be, entirely familiar, and of which the speaker knows next to nothing. The farmers of this country should drop this custom, which has nothing but its antiquity to recommend it, and get some of their own class to talk to them on such occasions.—Farmers' Friend.

### Government Control.

Grand Master Carr, of the Wisconsin Patrons of Husbandry, in his annual address says the express and telegraph companies should be brought under government control. The people have been misled by them altogether too long. That extortionate monopoly, the Western Union Telegraph company, reports receipts for 1882 of over \$20,000,000, expenses \$14,500,000, leaving a profit of \$5,500,000, with an average toll of thirty cents a message and an average cost to the company of twenty-two cents a message. The public, therefore, is paying to the company a profit of nearly 30 per cent for a service which the national government might render with a postal telegraph at an enormous reduction in cost.

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CROCKERY,  
BOOTS and SHOES.

E. J. KEAN, { Groceries,  
Crockery,  
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E. J. KEAN, { GROCERIES,  
CROCKERY,  
CROCKERY,  
BOOTS and SHOES.

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